

5-8-1859

Letter from Sarah Whitney, to Anne Whitney, 1859 May 8

Sarah Whitney

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May 5th '39

As Tues. is the brightest day of all the week, whether there be clouds or Sunshine, I ought my Annie dear to write Norway on that day - & so I hasten to the sky parlor, warming myself by the remembrance of the July days we stumbled into May, & refreshing my eye by the glory wh. for once a Northeast storm is helping to spread before our astonished eyes. Last week, Summer came to us deliciously covering the country with greenness & tempting the whole world & his wife to out door life - but on Sun. the heat was almost appalling - every body was glad of the shadow of closed blinds & conversation turned upon foreign docs & the destruction of the world. In the morning I gave Kate White & Mrs Carrol (who came up the day before, pale & thin & miserable in body) a short drive through Belmont &

under the rocks where I gathered Columbine
& violets, & in the P.M. I metted bodily
& cooled spiritually while listening to
Margt Fuller's brother's nasal orthodoxy - &
in the song drove with our friends to Newton
to speak a comforting word to our law
afflicted friends. Mary said, the evidence
being in so far as the Judge wld allow,
he ruling every thing against Mrs. S. &
for the woman, - all that she hoped for
was a disagreement of the Jury - & Father
brings word to night that that is the
result - the Jury having been out all night
& receiving fresh instructions from the
nursible Judge this A.M. in favor of the
Plaintiff, after 3 hours further confab, de-
clared themselves 3 for the woman, 9 for
the husband. Ripley gives in - Says, failing
this time, she can never gain a suit & admits
compromise - Having done his best, assis-
ted by able counsel, Mr Ames & the Judge
he attributes his failure to "Outside pres-
sure"!! every body being against his client.

Every one of the other jury who listened with interest to the case says that Mr L. w'd have got the case if it had been given to them. I pray now that Mr. L. may purchase peace for himself & afflicted family by a generous offer though the she monster deserves something quite else. If the two Marys are not used up by the trial, a trip to Prospect Hill has been proposed. What w'd we not all give, c'd you ~~only~~ dear Annie join us. Rebekah is coming on Thurs. Mary Lindson on Sat. Mr. Potter was also intending to come to W. Newton on Thurs. & w'd probably have accepted my invitation to meet R. here, with whom she has lately become acquainted - but on Sat. Katie rec'd word of her mother's illness & drugging by calomel &c. wh. will probab'y delay Mr's. visit. The warm weather is as refreshing to Katie as the sunshine & spring showers to the grass & trees. But to Mr L. it on the over took wh it prompted was on Sun. when they were here, rather debilitating. What with

company & Spring fixings, I find myself quite busy but far from being overworked. I want to have Mother in readiness to go to N.Y. if opportunity & inclination jump together. The unexpected heat troubled her as usual & made me fear that our plan to send her to a warmer climate was an unwise one. But now that we do not really believe that summer has come either here or in N.Y. she is inclined to make a little preparation, & says that though she should like to go, it is quite uncertain whether she shall. Eliza says he will go with her at any time, but that I think she will not consent to. I suppose escort might have been found among the anniversary people but I did not think of it soon enough.

I received to night one of dear Mrs. Twitchell's sweet letters in wh. she thanks me warmly for my account of yr. movements saying she feels very much interest in all that concerns her. Please give my love & best wishes when you write to her, & say how happy I am to hear of her improved health, good spirits & favorable opportunities. She thinks

her daughter Lusia will not, by reason of feeble health be able to make us a visit, but I shall try to see her in Boston the last of this month.

I shall make vigorous inquiries for the "Poems," & do hope that some kindly but not puffing word may introduce them to the public. I suppose they are expected by some of yr friends, though I have exchanged word with no one but Mary respecting them till the other day when Mrs Cheney asked if you were about to publish! Mr Sandborn had heard so.

I am sorry you do not like the "Prayer for Life," for it is still attributed to you, but perhaps by no one for whose favorable opinion you care.

I am sorry for Lizzie Bridges, that she sh^d be separated from any friend. The poor child's life must be a lonely one - will she not come with F. to Belmont give much love to both of them. Much love also to James & Mary whom I hope some day to hear from. Would it not

^{be well}
to seek for time to go to Orange &
for other recreation? I fear you
are applying yourself too closely to the clay.
A breath from the Pto if it is only that
from Orange, I think wld do you good.
I cld not but hold my nose for sympathy
with you during the warm weather
when we were snuffing the airs of
Belmont the best - best by all but its
human fathers. Our family was increased
a week or two since by the arrival in the
cellar of 3 Kittens - Fortunately there is no
anti cat law to cause a struggle between
our love of mercy & our love of money.

Did I tell you that Robert had come home
- when he is ^{not} work on the farm, gives me
great delight in driving by his well known
stirling qualities. Bessie is sometimes as
nervous as any fine lady, but I am not afraid
of her antics while I hold the reins.

Cousin Fanny is much better. I trust that
the Homoeopathic medicine will drive the bad
disease quite out of her. I am quite confident
she need not have suffered so much, had she
taken advice earlier. Past 11 o'clock & all well
God bless thee my dear sister in the good night. I pray
for thee ever
thine own Sarah.